

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2-6 and 8-9 under Section 112, first paragraph. However, in Examiner's Answer dated June 18, 2002 (Paper No. 18), the Examiner withdrew the 112 rejection on exactly the same grounds as those in the outstanding Office Action. The Decision on Appeal dated September 3, 2003 (Paper No. 26), pages 1-2, also noted that the Examiner has withdrawn the Section 112 rejections. Moreover, the Examiner repeated the rejection of claim 9 under Section 103 even though claim 9 has been allowed by the Examiner.

Further, Applicant has added two new claims (Claims 10-11) which the Examiner did not address in the current Office Action.

In the interest of advancing prosecution of this application, Applicant has assumed that the Section 112 rejection of claims 2-6 and 8-9 is withdrawn and that claim 9 has been allowed. In the alternative, in the event that the Examiner maintains either the Section 112 rejection of claims 2-6 and 8-9, or the Section 103 rejection of claim 9, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to treat this response as a request for a new Office Action under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.104 which requires an Office Action to have a complete response as to all pending claims including claims 10-11, and reasons why claim 9 which was allowed was rejected again on the exact same grounds.

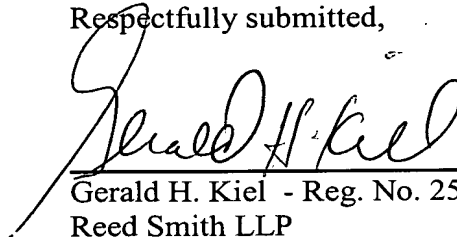
Applicant has added new claims 12-15 which correspond exactly to previously pending claims 4-8, respectively at the time of appeal. Since the rejection of claims 4-8 under Section 112, first paragraph was withdrawn by the Examiner, Applicant submits that claims 12-15 are also enabled by the specification.

Since claim 9 has been allowed, Applicant submits that dependent claims 10-15 are also allowable by virtue of their dependency.

The Examiner objected to the drawings because reference numeral 36 in the specification is not shown in the drawings. In response, Applicant has amended the specification to delete the reference to numeral 36.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its earlier allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald H. Kiel", is written over a horizontal line.

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